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EXAMINER

SELBY, GEVELL V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

DATE MAILED: 12/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/666,449

Applicant(s)

YOKONUMA, NORIKAZU

Examiner

Gevell Selby

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 19 is missing the preamble, making the claim indefinite. A preamble must be added for the claim to be distinct. For review purposes, the preamble "An electronic still camera comprising" will be used.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. **Claims 1, 12, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ogino, US 5,633,976.**

In regard to claim 1, Ogino, US 5,633,976, discloses an electronic still camera  
(see figure 1) comprising:

a charge storage type image-capturing element (see figure 1, element 14) that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness distribution (see column 4, lines 2-9);

[The brightness distribution of the subject is focused by the lens through the light amount control member onto the image pickup face which converts the optical image into an electrical signal that is stored in the sample holding circuit.]

a continuous shooting setting unit (see figure 1, element 38) that sets either a first continuous shooting mode (low speed) or a second continuous shooting mode (high speed) in which photographs are taken over shorter intervals than in said first continuous shooting mode (see column 7, lines 59-63); and

a recording signal output circuit (see figure 1, element 20) that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element and reads out image data from said image-capturing element when either continuous shooting mode has been set by said continuous shooting setting unit (see column 4, lines 27-31) and compresses and outputs image data corresponding to a frame which has been read out immediately before while electrical charges for the next frame are being stored during, at least, a period of time in which said second continuous shooting mode has been set (see column 3, lines 6-8 and 12-18).

In regard to claim 12, Ogino, US 5,633,976, discloses an electronic still camera according to claim 1, wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting speed is set at a lower speed limit.

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It is inherent that the shutter speed for the second (high speed) continuous shooting mode has a minimum speed to differentiate it from the first (low speed) continuous shooting mode and in order to be able to function under the shorter interval time between image captures.

In regard to claim 20, Ogino, US 5,633,976, discloses an electronic camera (see figure 1), comprising:

a charge storage type image-capturing element (see figure 1, element 14) that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness distribution (see column 4, lines 2-9);

[The brightness distribution of the subject is focused by the lens through the light amount control member onto the image pickup face which converts the optical image into an electrical signal that is stored in the sample holding circuit.]

a single shot/continuous shooting setting unit (see figure 1, element 38) that sets either a single shot mode or a continuous shooting mode (see column 3, lines 64-67); and

a recording signal output circuit (see figure 1, element 20) that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element and reads out image data from said image-capturing element when said continuous shooting mode has been set by said single shot/continuous shooting setting unit (see column 4, lines 27-31) and compresses and outputs image data corresponding to a frame read out immediately before while electrical charges are being stored for the next frame (see column 3, lines 6-8 and 12-18).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 2 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogino, US 5,633,976 in view of Miyamoto, US 6,518,999.**

In regard to claim 2, Ogino, US 5,633,976, discloses an electronic still camera according to claim 1, wherein:

said image-capturing element is provided with a plurality of pixels; but lacks said recording signal output circuit reads out image data only from some of the pixels at said image-capturing element while said second continuous shooting mode has been set.

It is well known and old in the art that a charge storage type image sensor is provided with a plurality of pixels in order to capture a complete image. Official notice is taken that the image-capturing element is provided with a plurality of pixels.

Miyamoto, US 6,518,999, discloses an electronic camera wherein the recording signal output circuit reads out image data only from some of the pixels at said image-capturing element while the continuous shooting mode is set (see column 2 lines, 9-22). Miyamoto, US 6,518,999, teaches that the camera thins out the pixels read in on a

horizontal line because a magnetic head is mechanically arranged and the time required to move the magnetic head influences the continuous shooting speed (see column 1, lines 32-43).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art ,at the time of the invention, to modify Ogino, US 5,633,976, in view of Miyamoto, US 6,518,999, to have the recording signal output circuit read out image data only from some of the pixels at said image-capturing element while the second continuous shooting mode has been set in order to increase the continuous shooting speed as suggested by Miyamoto, US 6,518,999 (see column 1, lines 32-42).

In regard to claim 13, Ogino, US 5,633,976, in view of Miyamoto, US 6,518,999, discloses an electronic still camera according to claim 2, wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting speed is set at a lower speed limit.

It would have been implied that the shutter speed for the second (high speed) continuous shooting mode has a minimum speed to differentiate it from the first (low speed) continuous shooting mode and in order to be able to function under the shorter interval time between image captures.

**7. Claims 3, 5-7, 8, 10, 11, 14-16, 17, 18, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogino, US 5,633,976 in view of Kudo et al., US 5,517,243.**

In regard to claim 3, Ogino, US 5,633,976, discloses an electronic still camera according to claim 1, but lacks wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, an image-capturing sensitivity higher than an image capturing sensitivity for said first continuous shooting mode has been set.

Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, discloses an electronic camera in which the image-capturing sensitivity is higher in continuous mode than in single shot mode (see figure 13, steps S113-116 and column 17, lines 40-50).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art, at the time of invention, to modify Ogino, US 5,633,976, in view of Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, wherein when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, an image-capturing sensitivity higher than an image capturing sensitivity for said first continuous shooting mode has been set in order to provide an electronic camera which is arrange to prevent deterioration of image quality as suggested by Kudo, US 5,517,243 (see column 3, lines 5-10).

In regard to claims 5, and 7, Ogino, US 5,633,976, discloses an electronic still camera according to claims 1 and 3, but lacks:

an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart.



Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, discloses an electronic camera with an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined set of calculated values (operation mode flag, SV and BV), wherein the calculated values used for the continuous mode are different from those used in single shot mode (see column 17, lines 15-23 and column 17, line 65 to column 18, line 2).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art, at the time of invention, to modify Ogino, US 5,633,976, in view of Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, to have:

an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart in order to obtain the aperture value and shutter speed required as suggested by Kudo, US 5,517,243 (see column 17, line 65 to column 18, line 2).

In regard to claims 8, 10, and 11, Ogino, US 5,633,976, discloses an electronic still camera according to claims 1, 3, and 5, but lacks:

a mechanical shutter provided to block photographic, light fluxes traveling to said image-capturing element, wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, electrical charges are stored at said image-capturing element and image data are read out from said image-capturing element while said mechanical shutter is left open.

Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, discloses an electronic camera comprising:  
a mechanical shutter (see figure 2, 11) provided to block photographic, light fluxes traveling to said image-capturing element (see column 4, line 55), wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, electrical charges are stored at said image-capturing element and image data are read out from said image-capturing element while said mechanical shutter is left open (see column 1, lines 39-42 and column 18, lines 49-60).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art, at the time of invention, to modify Ogino, US 5,633,976, in view of Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, to have the mechanical shutter described above in order to perform high speed continuous shooting (see Kudo: column 1, lines 39-42).

In regard to claims 14-16, Ogino, US 5,633,976, in view of Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, discloses an electronic still camera according to claims, 3, 5, and 8, wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, a shutter speed corresponding to a continuous shooting speed is set at a lower speed limit.

It would have been implied that the shutter speed for the second (high speed) continuous shooting mode has a minimum speed to differentiate it from the first (low

speed) continuous shooting mode and in order to be able to function under the shorter interval time between image captures.

In regard to claim 17, Ogino, US 5,633,976, discloses an electronic still camera (see figure 1) comprising:

- a charge storage type image-capturing element (see figure 1, element 14) that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness distribution (see column 2, line 1 to column 3, line2);

- a continuous shooting setting unit (see figure 1, element 38) that sets either a first continuous shooting mode (low speed) or a second continuous shooting mode (high speed) in which photographs are taken over shorter intervals than in said first continuous shooting mode (see column 7, lines 59-63); and

- a recording signal output circuit (see figure 1, element 20) that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element and reads out image data from said image-capturing element when either continuous shooting mode has been set by said continuous shooting setting unit (see column 4, lines 27-31) and compresses and outputs image data corresponding to a frame which has been read out immediately before while electrical charges for the next frame are being stored during, at least, a period of time in which said second continuous shooting mode has been set (see column 3, lines 6-8 and 12-18) but lacks:

- a sensitivity setting unit that sets a higher image capturing sensitivity in said second continuous shooting mode than an image-capturing sensitivity set in said first continuous shooting mode.

Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, discloses an electronic camera with a sensitivity setting unit (see figure 6, element 112) in which the image-capturing sensitivity is set higher in continuous mode than in single shot mode (see figure 13, steps S113-116 and column 17, lines 40-50).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art, at the time of invention, to modify Ogino, US 5,633,976, in view of Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, to have:

- a charge storage type image-capturing element,
- a continuous shooting setting unit,
- a recording signal output circuit, and
- a sensitivity setting unit to prevent deterioration of image quality as suggested by Kudo, US 5,517,243 (see column 3, lines 5-10).

In regard to claim 18, Ogino, US 5,633,976, discloses an electronic still camera (see figure 1) comprising:

- a charge storage type image-capturing element (see figure 1, element 14) that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness distribution (see column 4, lines 2-9);

[The brightness distribution of the subject is focused by the lens through the light amount control member onto the image pickup face which converts the optical image into an electrical signal that is stored in the sample holding circuit.]

- a continuous shooting setting unit (see figure 1, element 38) that sets either a first continuous shooting mode (low speed) or a second continuous

shooting mode (high speed) in which photographs are taken over shorter intervals than in said first continuous shooting mode (see column 7, lines 59-63); and

a recording signal output circuit (see figure 1, element 20) that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element and reads out image data from said image-capturing element when either continuous shooting mode has been set by said continuous shooting setting unit (see column 4, lines 27-31) and compresses and outputs image data corresponding to a frame which has been read out immediately before while electrical charges for the next frame are being stored during, at least, a period of time in which said second continuous shooting mode has been set (see column 3, lines 6-8 and 12-18) but lacks:

an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart.

Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, discloses an electronic camera with an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined set of calculated values (operation mode flag, SV and BV), wherein a the calculated values used for the

continuous mode are different from those used in single shot mode (see column 17, 15-23 and 17, 65 to 18,2).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art, at the time of invention, to modify Ogino, US 5,633,976, in view of Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, to have:

a charge storage type image-capturing element,

a continuous shooting setting unit,

a recording signal output circuit,

a sensitivity setting unit, and

and an exposure value setting unit in order to obtain the aperture value and shutter speed required as suggested by Kudo, US 5,517,243 (see column 17, line 65 to column 18, line 2).

In regard to claim 19, Ogino, US 5,633,976, discloses an electronic still camera (see figure 1) comprising:

a charge storage type image-capturing element (see figure 1, element 14) that stores electrical charges in correspondence to subject brightness distribution (see column 4, lines 2-9);

[The brightness distribution of the subject is focused by the lens through the light amount control member onto the image pickup face which converts the optical image into an electrical signal that is stored in the sample holding circuit. ]

a continuous shooting setting unit (see figure 1, element 38) that sets either a first continuous shooting mode (low speed) or a second continuous

shooting mode (high speed) in which photographs are taken over shorter intervals than in said first continuous shooting mode (see column 7, lines 59-63); and

a recording signal output circuit (see figure 1, element 20) that repeatedly stores electrical charges at said image-capturing element and reads out image data from said image-capturing element when either continuous shooting mode has been set by said continuous shooting setting unit (see column 4, lines 27-31) and compresses and outputs image data corresponding to a frame which has been read out immediately before while electrical charges for the next frame are being stored during, at least, a period of time in which said second continuous shooting mode has been set (see column 3, lines 6-8 and 12-18) but lacks:

a sensitivity setting unit (see figure 6, element 112) that sets a higher image capturing sensitivity in said second continuous shooting mode than an image-capturing sensitivity set in said first continuous shooting mode, but lacks:

a sensitivity setting unit that sets a higher image capturing sensitivity in said second continuous shooting mode than an image-capturing sensitivity set in said first continuous shooting mode; and

an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second continuous shooting mode program

chart, with said second continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart.

Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, discloses an electronic camera with a sensitivity-setting unit (see figure 6, element 112) in which the image-capturing sensitivity is set higher in continuous mode than in single shot mode (see figure 13, steps S113-116 and column 17, lines 40-50).

Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, discloses an electronic camera with an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined set of calculated values (operation mode flag, SV and BV), wherein a the calculated values used for the continuous mode are different from those used in single shot mode (see column 17, 15-23 and 17, 65 to 18,2).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art, at the time of invention, to modify Ogino, US 5,633,976, in view of Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, to have:

- a charge storage type image-capturing element,
- a continuous shooting setting unit,
- a recording signal output circuit,
- a sensitivity setting unit to prevent deterioration of image quality as suggested by Kudo, US 5,517,243 (see column 3, lines 5-10), and
- an exposure value setting unit in order to obtain the aperture value and shutter speed required as suggested by Kudo, US 5,517,243 (see column 17, line 65 to column 18, line 2).



Claims 4, 6, and 9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogino, US 5,633,976 in view of Miyamoto, US 6,518,999, as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Kudo et al., US 5,517,243.

In regard to claim 4, Ogino in view of Miyamoto, US 6,518,999, discloses the electronic still camera of claim 2 as described above, but lacks wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, an image-capturing sensitivity higher than an image capturing sensitivity for said first continuous shooting mode has been set.

Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, discloses an electronic camera in which the image-capturing sensitivity is higher in continuous mode than in single shot mode (see figure 13, steps S113-116 and column 17, lines 40-50).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art, at the time of invention, to modify Ogino, US 5,633,976, in view of Miyamoto, US 6,518,999, in further view of Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, wherein when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, an image-capturing sensitivity higher than an image capturing sensitivity for said first continuous shooting mode has been set to prevent deterioration of image quality as suggested by Kudo, US 5,517,243 (see column 3, lines 5-10).

In regard to claim 6, Ogino, US 5,633,976, in view of Miyamoto, US 6,518,999, discloses the electronic still camera of claim 2 as described above, but lacks:

an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart.

Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, discloses an electronic camera with an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined set of calculated values (operation mode flag, SV and BV), wherein a the calculated values used for the continuous mode are different from those used in single shot mode (see column 17, 15-23 and 17, 65 to 18,2).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art, at the time of invention, to modify Ogino, US 5,633,976, in view of Miyamoto, US 6,518,999, in further view of Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, to have:

an exposure value setting unit that sets shutter speed and aperture corresponding to subject brightness in conformance to a predetermined program chart, wherein:

said exposure value setting unit is provided with a first continuous shooting mode program chart and a second continuous shooting mode program chart, with said second continuous shooting mode program chart shifted toward a higher shutter speed side relative to said first continuous shooting mode program chart in order to obtain the aperture value and shutter speed required as suggested by Kudo, US 5,517,243 (see column 17, line 65 to column 18, line 2).

In regard to claim 9, Ogino, US 5,633,976, in view of Miyamoto, US 6,518,999, discloses the electronic still camera of claim 2 as described above, but lacks:

a mechanical shutter provided to block photographic, light fluxes traveling to said image-capturing element, wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, electrical charges are stored at said image-capturing element and image data are read out from said image-capturing element while said mechanical shutter is left open.

Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, discloses an electronic camera comprising:

a mechanical shutter (see figure 2, 11) provided to block photographic, light fluxes traveling to said image-capturing element (see column 4, line 55), wherein:

when said second continuous shooting mode has been set, electrical charges are stored at said image-capturing element and image data are read out from said image-capturing element while said mechanical shutter is left open (see column 1, lines 39-42 and column 18, lines 49-60).

It would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art, at the time of invention, to modify Ogino, US 5,633,976, in view of Miyamoto, US 6,518,999, in further view of Kudo et al., US 5,517,243, to have the mechanical shutter described above in order to perform high speed continuous shooting (see Kudo: column 1, lines 39-42).

***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following art discloses electronic still cameras with continuous shooting modes:

Kawahara et al., US 4,614,977,

Kiuchi et al., US 4,676,624,


Fuji et al., US 6,415,102.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gevell Selby whose telephone number is 703-305-8623. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. - 5:30 PM (every other Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's primary, Vu Le can be reached on 703-308-6613. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

gvs

  
VU LE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER